

As a fire marshal since 1979, a party to litigation resulting from code violations that resulted in serious injury during a fire in a three-family home, and as a former employee of the CT State Fire Marshals Office, I submit this urgent appeal to reject any attempt to exempt three-family homes from inspection under and application of the State Fire Safety Code. As a fire marshal, a codes compliance expert and a firefighter I can attest to the exceptional value of having inspected multi-family homes of 3 or more families and the subsequent improvements to the life safety features of so many of those buildings that no doubt resulted in far less risk of injury or death to the occupants in the event of a fire. To exempt multi-family homes of 3 or more units from the jurisdiction of the local fire marshal under the application of the State Fire Safety Code would be a travesty that would no doubt result in a higher risk to those building occupants with the serious potential to cause serious injury or even death to both the occupants the firefighters attempting to rescue them.

While I recognize the potential hardship imposed on some building owners under the current State Fire Safety Code application to multi-family homes, these code requirements have been in place for decades, have not changed significantly (for existing occupancies) and have proven extremely beneficial to life and property. Perhaps instead the issue that brings this proposal forward could be better served by a long, hard look at how some local authorities unfairly and unjustly interpret and apply the current regulations and continue to be allowed to do so if there is proper oversight by the State Fire Marshals office.

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